

MOSCOW TREE COMMISSION



Ellis Eifert
Commission Chair
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Regular Meeting ~ Minutes~

David Schott
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<https://www.ci.moscow.id.us/557/Tree-Commission>

**Tuesday
February 2, 2021**

5:00 PM

**Mayors Conference Room
206 E 3rd Street**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM

WELCOME AND ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Pamela Brunsfeld, Secretary (Virtual); Ellis Eifert, Chair; Mary Jo Hamilton, Vice Chair (Virtual); Zena Hartung (Virtual); Jeanne Leffingwell.

ABSENT: David Rauk.

STAFF: Donna Howard (Virtual); David Schott, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation.

Introduction of Zena Hartung, newly appointed MTC commissioner.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes from January 5, 2021 (ACTION ITEM) - Eifert

Minutes presented for approval.

ACTION: Approve minutes as presented; approve minutes with amendments; or take other such actions deemed appropriate.

Hamilton moved, Brunsfeld seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Acclamation Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

2. Public Comment and Response to Previous Comments (limited to 10 minutes)

Members of the public may speak to the Commission regarding matters NOT on the agenda or currently pending before the Commission.

None offered.

3. Review of the Tree Commission Goals (ACTION ITEM) – Schott

In 2019, the Tree Commission established goals for years to come. The Commission will review, discuss, and revise if needed these goals on an annual basis.

ACTION: Approve the Moscow Tree Commission goals; or take such actions deemed appropriate.

The commissioners considered revising the goals and objectives into a new set as presented by Schott. After discussing the Heritage Tree Program, providing outreach to local licensed tree contractors and other projects included in the goals approved January 8, 2019, they agreed to accept the following as their five-year goals:

Category A: Promote Education and Public Relations

- A1. Develop a map and data set of large, unique, and/or historic trees in Moscow (For example: Heritage Tree Program).

- A2. Write and submit one or two articles each year about community forestry or arboriculture to the Moscow Pullman Daily News and/or the Lewiston Tribune.
- A3. Offer workshops to the public on urban tree care.
- A4. Sponsor annual and special community events to promote the community forestry program.
 - 1. Organize and sponsor the Annual Arbor Day celebration.
 - 2. Continue to participate in at least two Farmer's Markets (booth) and other venues
 - 3. Continue to organize an annual spring tree give away and/or a community planting project.
- A5. Commissioners participate in team building activities and continuing education.
- A6. Provide outreach and collaborate with local tree contractors to provide continuing education to ensure proper tree care practices within the City of Moscow.

Category B: Create Partnerships

- B1. Develop a tree message or newsletter for inclusion in City's utility bill.

Category C: Enhance Planning and Management

- C1. Develop a long-range plan to increase and diversify Moscow's urban forest eco system.
- C2. Continue to provide annual report to City Council detailing completed and anticipated MTC activities.
- C3. Continue to implement programs to qualify and achieve status of Tree City USA and Growth Award each year.
- C4. Act as lead commission on development of Harvest Park.

Category D: Increase Tree Planting and Maintenance Efforts

- D1. Study and recommend solutions for upgrading the health and condition of downtown trees.

Category E: Mitigate the Effects of Climate Change on the Environment

- E1. Evaluate the carbon sequestering capability of Moscow's community forest and develop an education program to increase its capacity.
- E2. Aid in reducing the City's carbon footprint through tree activities.
 - a. Education outreach activities.

Hartung moved and Leffingwell seconded to accept the revised goals. Acclamation Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

4. Consideration of the Spring / Summer Parks and Recreation Brochure Classes (ACTION ITEM) – Schott

Submittals for tree classes and workshops are due mid-February for the spring / summer Parks and Recreation Brochure. This brochure will cover April 1, 2021 through July 31, 2021.

ACTION: Discuss and approve classes and workshops for inclusion in the upcoming spring and summer brochure or take other such action deemed appropriate.

Brunsfeld suggested a cluster of children's classes involving on trees as art where each day focused on a different type of tree or activity: conifer tree day, flowering tree day, etc. She has been planning this with Leffingwell and they talked to Greg Morrison. Eifert, Hamilton and Leffingwell suggested collaborating with PCEI on a nature walk. Hartung asked if the classes would be for adults as well as children; she was told both. She then suggested a class about soil and the life in the soil. The commissioners then talked about tree pruning classes offered in the past. Some class ideas were deferred until the next brochure cycle due to growing season conditions and stages of tree growth. These included a tree identification course in the late summer or fall (Brunsfeld) and a tree art class and making Mandalas with leaves in the fall (Hamilton.)

Brunsfeld moved and Hamilton seconded to approve the trees as art class. Acclamation Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

5. Consideration of the 2021 Arbor Day Celebration (ACTION ITEM) – Rauk / Schott

The Tree Commission will discuss potential venues and themes for the 2021 Arbor Day celebration. Arbor Day typically falls on the last Friday of April each year, this year being April 30, 2021.

ACTION: Discuss and approve the Arbor Day celebration venue and theme; or take such actions deemed appropriate.

Schott summarized the Tree City USA program and its required Arbor Day celebration. Due to COVID, holding an Arbor Day celebration was waived as a requirement for 2020. The MTC held a small observance last October which included planting an apple guild in Harvest Park. This was attended by a limited number of people, not the traditional April event, coordinated with local schoolchildren and open to the public. Schott asked the commissioners if they would like to hold an event for 2021; if so, when and where? All decided that it would be a good idea to plan an April event and that it could be modified or cancelled if COVID restrictions warranted. Ideas considered for the event were replacing a City tree lost during the recent windstorm (Hartung), encouraging Moscow's citizens to plant a tree for one that was lost during the windstorm and share a photo of it on social media (Eifert) and planting trees at Lola Clyde Park (Hamilton). Further consideration of the celebration's specifics will be discussed at a future meeting.

Leffingwell moved, Hamilton seconded to celebrate Arbor Day in April 2021. Acclamation Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

6. Consideration of the Pruning Education Utility Newsletter (ACTION ITEM) – Rauk / Schott

The Tree Commission will discuss and develop a do's and don'ts of pruning for inclusion in the City utility newsletter. The utility billing newsletter has a deadline of March 19th for inclusion in the April mailing. Text and graphics should be no longer than one page.

ACTION: Discuss and approve the pruning education utility newsletter; or take such actions deemed appropriate.

No action; Rauk was not in attendance. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

REPORTS

Harvest Park Update: Schott went over the history of this approximate four-acre parcel located south of town. It is not a flat, traditional tract of parkland but it lends itself well to the edible forest idea. The project will be completed in phases as funding is available. The staff are maintaining the property; by planting trees now it will they can be established when the park is finished. Trees will be planted on the periphery to avoid damage from future construction. Last year, City staff planted buckwheat as a cover crop to crowd out weeds like prickly lettuce and to engage and prepare the soil. The soil is acidic and the City had a lime application last fall to ameliorate the high pH. Schott also purchased a pH meter and will continue to sample the soil. He then shared a graphic of his first planting plan which included various fruit and nut trees, additional cover crops like Idaho fescue, white and red clover. The cover crops will be mowed down and left as mulch and to engage the soil. Schott showed on the graphic where the apple guild was planted October 2020; he then shared an expense sheet showing what was purchased. He proposed a volunteer project to help with plantings. City staff could do most of the preparation, digging holes and preparing soil, and the volunteers could do ceremonial plantings similar to Arbor Day. Schott then fielded questions from the commissioners. Eifert asked if the food grown in the park is for the public to harvest; Schott answered that the Core Development Team (CDT) is working on a management plan to outline guidelines, establish limits on harvesting, allowing dogs in the park, etc. Brunsfeld appreciated planting clover as the cover crop. She uses a perennial clover at her home and said it will help the soil; she will email the name of a specific clover to Schott. Hartung noticed that Schott was using Burnt Ridge Nursery in Washington and said they were a good company, she travels there frequently and offered to pick up and deliver

purchases. Hartung then suggested planted table grapes as there are some varieties suited to zone 4. Hamilton suggested planting garbanzo beans as a cover crop; Schott will look into it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / DISCUSSION

The University of Idaho (UI) would like a member of the MTC to join their Tree Campus Higher Education Program. The UI is considering membership in an Arbor Day Foundation Program similar to Tree City USA. Schott was contacted by a student to gauge interest by any of the MTC commissioners in joining this new program. If anyone would like more information, please let Schott know and he will forward the information to Dr. Charles Goebel.

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

Next meeting: March 2, 2021

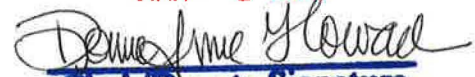
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:07

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Minutes Approved On

MAR - 2 2021


Clerk/Deputy Signature